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the British Museum, with many other libraries raising the London total to about 3,200,000; the more than 1,200,000 collected in about a dozen libraries at Rome; the 1,000,000 volumes which even Russian St. Petersburg has gathered; the 1,000,000 of Munich; the 750,000 of Berlin, besides the 200,000 of the university, and over 200,000 more in smaller libraries: or even the half million each of Darmstadt, Leipzig, Strasburg, Copenhagen, and Edinburgh (in two collections); and the 400,000 or more at each of such places as Madrid, Florence, Vienna, and Oxford, in the Bodleian, besides as many more in a score of lesser libraries. If the cost should reach \$10,000,000 within as many years, Congress can yet do nothing wiser than to ungrudgingly provide both a suitable place for a great national library, and ample means for developing it on a scale commensurate with American interest in literature and American creation of literature. It is a splendid distinction, a national monument, which the United States can afford, and ought on every ground to afford now, lest history point the finger of scorn to legislators who rooted up a foundation the wisest ever planted on our soil.

EDWARD C. TOWNE.

II.

THE ESSENTIAL EDUCATIONAL REFORM.

EDUCATIONAL reform has occasioned a deal of clean brain-work lately through both the magazine and book press. Woman's emancipation clamor, technical training courses, public school methods, science versus classics in university training, etc., have led to solemn incubation and no little cackle over the egg. The result of the hatching, though, has been of little moment compared with the importance of one phase of the problem of reform totally slighted. This has nothing to do with pedagogy or lecture room, or, indeed, with intellectualism in any sense. It touches the moral side of life, the *esse*, not the *posse*, and sinks to the very tap-root of training. It begins with the drying up of the mother's milk, and, precious as that mother's milk, feeds the life-springs of a healthy life. This training is the cultivation of the habit of naked, unshrinking veracity, the die-sinking of the impression so deep as to be ineradicable, that to lie is to incur disgrace of the blackest possible stain. Perhaps most parents teach the evils of mendacity and punish it. But the discipline is too shallow and feeble for any sub-soiling, and the child escapes to playground and schoolroom ripe for the thistle seeds.

The ancient Persian, in the day when he was hero and conqueror, summed up the education of youth in the triple teaching, to speak the truth, to be fearless, and to be a skilful archer. In one sense only do we moderns honor the example, and then only metaphorically. We are adepts in drawing the long-bow. Cut many of the fairest fruits of civilization open, and you will find the lie coiled like a worm at the core. Sometimes, indeed, it has helped the mellowing, for deceit has a function in some of the glittering and attractive sides of culture. The so-called amenities of life cling to the lie as a convenient lubricant. Grinding competition in all lines of trade and commerce tempts the constant manipulation of the lie in some of its forms. The lie of the lawyer is almost a necessity of professional ethics. The harness of the politician and diplomat would gall most grievously without this padding. The journalist, when need be, lies, because he finds his vocation and profit in amusing the public fond of extravagant and sensational stories. The man of society—but why multiply examples? Of course the self-respecting liar sugar-coats the fact with euphemism, and is prompt to resent the charge. Disgrace consists not in the lie, but in the exposure.

Naked veracity is the most unfashionable of virtues. Generally the liar and the coward are bound together in the self-same calfskin. If courage exists, it is more apt to be the lower form of physical courage. The habit of truth is always conjoined with moral courage, even if not always concomitant with fighting "grit." In any case it raises natural courage to its nth power, be it great or small. The redeeming feature of the English public schools, brutal as they are, is that a liar is instantly taboo'd and exiled by his mates. So at West Point, the cadet caught in a lie is promptly and permanently cut by his class. Truth and courage are thus recognized as Siamese twins, each necessary to the other. Montaigne recognized this in his celebrated definition of the lie as courage toward God, and cowardice toward man.

Untruthfulness with its sequence of moral cowardice is the most prolific source of the corruption of the age. It should be strangled where Hercules strangled the serpents, in the cradle. Trained at home to love truth with a passionate reverence, the child blossoming into youth and manhood consecrates the idol on a shrine in the *penetralia* of his being. In the beautiful words of Sir Henry Wotton :

" This man is freed from servile bands
Of hopes to rise or fears to fall;
Lord of himself, if not of lands,
And having nothing, yet hath all."

There is hardly a social or a public evil that would not shrivel to its minimum before this sun-like force. Why such hair-splitting over the niceties of intellectual training, with the infinitely more important need crying to us? Train the child, all children up to manhood, to be unflinching truth-tellers. Then will the *pou sto* have been found, and the millennium be near at hand. Truth-tellers are instinctively truth-seekers. Intellectual education will be quickened to ends undreamed of now. Mephistophiles, the Goethian demon, who is the spirit of dissent, denial, skepticism, the deification of the sneer, belongs to the small fry of hell beside his great Suzerain, the Father of Lies.

G. T. FERRIS

III.

THE DECLINE OF THE THOROUGHBRED.

THE only real argument for the existence of horse racing, and the raising of thoroughbred racehorses, is the improvement of the breed of horses. Thoughtful men, however, are gradually becoming convinced that horse racing, as it at present exists on both sides of the Atlantic, is really tending towards a deterioration in horse flesh. The importance of this fact, if true, cannot be overestimated, for, once admitted, horse racing is without a *raison d'être*. The thoroughbred of today is produced with the sole object of furnishing an animal which will procure a liberal reward for its breeder and owner at the earliest possible moment. According to the short-sighted notions of most owners, two and three-year-old racing afford this immediate return. Consequently, it receives the lion's share of attention, while the racing of maturer animals is comparatively neglected. It seems almost unnecessary to demonstrate the patent folly of this, and certainly no sane racing man can assert that running youngsters before their frame and bones have settled is calculated to improve the breed of horses. High prices are paid only for racing stock which is descended from the most celebrated winners. Size, shape, bone, muscle, and stamina are elements which are very little considered. The effect of this is seen in the rapid decadence of the English and American draught